

## The Kukang Rescue Program in 2017



The Kukang Rescue Program is focused on combating illegal wildlife trade and on conservation of Greater slow loris (*Nycticebus coucang*) in Indonesia, especially in the North Sumatra province. This report is a summary of events that took place in Sumatra, the Czech Republic and also on the internet in 2017.

### Rescue and rehabilitation centre in Sumatra

At the end of 2017, the rescue and rehabilitation centre in Sumatra was extended by another part of approximately 1 ha area. The size of the whole land is now around 2.5 ha. On the new part of the land stands a building which will serve as an office and space for all the employees of the organization, for volunteers and visitors. In the past year, this building underwent an extensive reconstruction during which four semi-open rooms, a conference room, a dining room and new toilettes for visitors were built. This office building will enable to fully close the rehabilitation part of the centre to visitors so all the necessary quarantine and safety conditions can be preserved.



New office before the reconstruction



The office after the reconstruction

The clinic is currently equipped with basic tools and material. We would like to give the animals, often having gone through a very painful past, as good care as possible. Animals whose teeth have been drastically torn or pulled out often suffer from mouth infections and strong pain. To help such animals and to end their pain due to

which they only hardly can eat, it is key to perform a thorough dental check-up and to suggest an appropriate cure. This is why we need to equip our clinic with inhalation anesthesia which will allow manipulation and professional care during which handled animals feel no pain. Thanks to great 170 donors who joined a successful crowdfunding campaign on [www.darujme.cz](https://www.darujme.cz) at the end of 2017, we have managed to collect the whole needed amount of 150,000 CZK which will enable us to purchase an inhalation anesthesia for our clinic! Therefore, we will be able to treat animals with various injuries and to perform even complicated interventions. Some donors are still donating money within this collection (<https://www.darujme.cz/projekt/1200449>) thanks to which we can buy even more necessary material.



**Slow loris under inhalation anesthesia**



**Reconstruction of parking place in front of the office**

Thanks to the grant for 2018 which we have succeeded to gain from The Rufford Foundation for the third time, the centre will be extended by more rehabilitation cages in following months. Also thanks to several generous donors, new pre-releasing cages will be constructed to become the last phase of rehabilitation of slow lorises before they get transported to habituation enclosures in their natural environment and eventually released.

## **Raising awareness about illegal wildlife trade and conservation of slow lorises**

### **Indonesia:**

In the past year, education of chosen communities and general public was one of the key activities of the program in Sumatra. We have decided to support a local community in a village of Kuta Male so that the local people appreciate their natural wealth and protect, not hunt, slow lorises and other endangered animal species. Thanks to the support of the two general partners, Ostrava Zoo and Olomouc Zoo and also thanks support of the Cleveland Metroparks, a library focused on environmental education was built for children from the local community. The library is managed by external program assistants, Jhon Kartasima Gurusinga and Rukur Kita Perangin-angin. In the library, children can borrow books donated by the Green-books.org organization and The Prague British School, and also English courses led by volunteers take place there.





**Newly opened environmental library  
in the Kuta Male village**



**Children in the library in the Kuta Male village with new  
books from the Green-books.org organization**



**Handover of books for local children donated  
by Green-books.org and The Prague British School**



**Children with new books in the  
environmental school**

Another library established on the same principle and equipped thanks to books donated by the same organizations was opened together with the English-Environmental school for children. Our program leads this school in the Bandar Baru village in the close neighbourhood of the rescue and rehabilitation centre, and the school is regularly attended by 25 students. Three times a week, children can attend free lessons and borrow book in the school and library where they are supervised by our educational team. At the end of 2016/2017, not only did we award the best students, but we also equipped the school with new tables, seat mats and other tools for children.



**Newly equipped English-Environmental school  
of the Kukang rescue program**



**Students and educational team at the very end  
of 2016/2017**

In the past year, we also organized two awareness events in public places located close to the rescue centre (a popular tourist area with Rajah Berneh hot springs and the Berastagi city which is situated in proximity to two



famous volcanos, Sibayak and Sinabung). These are places with high concentration of people who are likely to become potential buyers or even slow loris hunters. The Indonesian team together with several Czech volunteers informed the public thanks to discussions and information materials showing that purchasing slow lorises is illegal and that they are unsuitable pets.



**Discussion with local people in tourist spot of the city of Berastagi**



**Educational team at a stand during an awareness event in popular area of Rajah Berneh hot springs**

Work of anti-conflict team has resulted in a publication titled: “How to protect a farm against animals, while letting them live”. This brochure aims to help mainly farmers living close to forest with protection of their farms against animals entering the farms, without having to kill them. One part of the brochure is also educational, informing about biology of particular animal species, conservation of endangered animal species living close to the farms, and about results of a year-long work of the anti-conflict team consisting of both Indonesian members and foreign volunteers of The Kukang Rescue Program. To enhance attractiveness, the brochure has been supplemented by many photographs of the anti-conflict team and by wonderful drawings of animals created by artists Marion Schön and Judith MacKay from the ABUN (Artists & Biologists Unite for Nature) artist group.



**Work of the Kukang anti-conflict team**



**Filling out of the questionnaires with farmers**



**Discussion with local farmers about endangered animals**



**Some farmers have become protectors of slow lorises**

The brochure is available for free download on our website in the “Program activities” section here: <http://kukang.org/en/program-activities>, more information on the creation of the brochure can be viewed in our press release here: <http://kukang.org/en/new-brochure-advises-indonesian-farmers-2018>. The brochure in three languages can be viewed online and downloaded also here:

In Czech: <https://view.publitas.com/the-kukang-rescue-program/jak-svou-farmu-ochranit-pred-zviraty-a-pritom-je-nechat-zit/page/1>

In English: <https://view.publitas.com/the-kukang-rescue-program/how-to-protect-your-farm-against-animals-while-letting-them-live/page/1>

In Indonesian: <https://view.publitas.com/the-kukang-rescue-program/bagaimana-cara-melindungi-lahan-pertanian-anda-tanpa-melukai-binatang-dan-membiarkan-mereka-tetap-hidup/>

### Czech Republic:

As usually, the Czech part of the Kukang team regularly organized or took part in many events all over the Czech Republic. Due to the high number of events, we are only stating their summary without any further details.

Summary of lectures of The Kukang Rescue Program in 2017
National Museum, Prague
CULS Prague – Faculty of Agrobiology, Food and Natural Resources – Primatology course
CULS Prague – Fair Party
Olomouc Zoo
Hodonín Zoo
Liberec Zoo, Animals in Danger Conference
Hluboká Zoo, May Day event
Dvůr Králové nad Labem Zoo – UCSZOO – Commission for Prosimians
CCBC Kaleidoscope, Prague
Naturalists Station, Prague
Veterinary High School in Hradec Králové, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade
Nad Alejí Grammar School, Prague
SNP 6 Ústí nad Labem Elementary School – Ecology Course – 2 lectures
Elementary School with Extended Language Program, Husova, Liberec
Women of Provodov in the World – Provodov near Zlín
National Museum, Prague



Summary and place of events in 2017	Type of event
Around the World festival, Plzeň	Stand
Slow Fashion for Slow Loris, Painting Drawing Atelier, Prague 2	Bazaar, stand, workshop
Slow Loris Day, Nad Alejí Grammar School, Praha	Event organized by 4B class and its teacher Barbora Chlastáková
May Day, Hluboká Zoo	Workshop, stand
IN SITU Day, Naturalists Station, Prague 6	Workshop, stand, quiz, mini-lecture
Live Teplice, Teplice	Workshop
Greater Slow Loris Day, Olomouc Zoo	Workshop, stand
International Animal Day, Liberec Zoo	Stand
Ostrava Zoo Run for Tonkin Snub-Nosed Monkeys, Ostrava Zoo	Participation and support
Project Day in Liberec Zoo, Husova and RJV Husova Elementary Schools	Stand
Conservation Day, Plzeň Zoo	Stand
Naturalists Station, Prague 2	Workshop
Animals in Danger Conference for Pedagogues and Education, Liberec Zoo	Workshop, stand
Around the World festival, Brno	Stand
Around the World festival, Prague	Stand
Fair Party, CULS Prague	Stand



**Activities of the very active Czech Kukang team**



**Students of the Nad Alejí Grammar School and the Slow Fashion for Slow Loris**



**Students of the Husova Elementary School during the Project Day in the Liberec Zoo**



**Students from Liberec who joined the Project Day in the Liberec Zoo gained "Slow Loris Protector" certificates**

In the "I Am Not Your Toy!" campaign, we have started to focus also on so called "Responsible tourism". For this purpose, an article and educational leaflet was made. It is available for free download and sharing here: <http://kukang.org/en/responsible-tourism>. Many activities were carried out by a group of volunteers cooperating as a "Kukang Revolt" on the internet, where they actively react on any popularization of slow lorises as pets (websites, social media etc.). These volunteers address and inform tourists on social media about responsibility during traveling and about the need to avoid tourist attractions, such as taking photos with wild animals for money by which they actually support illegal trade in these animals. One of the victims of this current trend has also been the popular Slovak rapper Rytmus (more info here: <https://www.facebook.com/IAMNotYourToy/posts/1534322699978130>). To support the "I Am Not Your Toy!" campaign, animator Žofie Zajíčková has created a new animation (can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4M3Upf4gYk8>) which was projected before every movie in the Lucerna Cinema in Prague and in the Multicinema Golden Apple Cinema in Zlín during August and September. Also, the main video of the campaign filmed by documentarist Michal Gálik has undergone an update (video can be viewed here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yWsvv93g0\\_o&t=39s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yWsvv93g0_o&t=39s)).



**Responsible tourism**



**I Am Not Your Toy! animation in chosen Czech cinemas**



## Field work

In 2017, the first phase of evaluation of a chosen locality as appropriate or inappropriate for possible future release of our rehabilitated slow lorises took place. The process of releasing animals that got from captivity back into the wild is very complex and difficult both in the question of time and finances. If any detail was underestimated, such a step could quite easily cause more harm than good – not only could the release harm the released individuals, but it could also be very dangerous for the whole wild population. The Kukang Rescue Program is trying to follow IUCN ‘Guidelines for Reintroductions and Other Conservation Translocations’ of animals. As the first step of preparations for release of individuals back into the wild, we have started with evaluation of food sources, predation and possible hunting pressure. We are also preparing the first phase of slow loris population size (i.e. abundance) estimate and determination of so called Abundance Index. Gradually, we are setting 10 transects where this estimate will be conducted. Another part of this work is also evaluation of habitat types on these transects, plant composition of the forest and comparison of results with other studies which performed the same method. All this field work will serve to maximize and then evaluate success of the pilot release of slow lorises that we plan to realize in this area. Besides several field assistants and volunteers, most intense work on this task has been currently done by Johana Rotterová in cooperation with Stanislav Lhota.



**Czech-Indonesian team in the field**



**Johana and Kaban in the field**

## Publicity

In the past year, the Kukang rescue program appeared in several TV reportages and articles on the internet or in printed magazines. Here is a summary of these articles:

Reportage of Česká televize right from Sumatra and a live interview from the studio of the Horizont ČT24 show with the program leader František Příbrský: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mt1S8xf-28I&t=48s>

Reportage on the Barrandov TV about Lucie, the coordinator of veterinary care and welfare, and also a field worker of the Olomouc Zoo (time of reportage is 18:58): <http://www.barrandov.tv/video/87111-nase-zpravy-12-1-2017>

Article on ostrava-online.cz “How to enjoy holidays without threatening wild animals”: <http://www.ostrava-online.cz/zpravy/jak-si-uzit-dovolenou-a-neohrozovat-volne-zijici-zvirata>

Article on denik.cz “Against Mutilation, Torture and Killing. North Bohemian zoos are helping save slow lorises”: <https://www.denik.cz/regiony/severoceske-zoo-pomahaji-chranit-outlone-20171106.html>

Article on ekolist.cz “Illegal animal trade in Indonesia is continuing, according to conservationists”: <http://ekolist.cz/cz/zpravodajstvi/nelegalni-obchod-se-zviraty-v-indonesii-stale-pokracuje>



Article on [ekolist.cz](http://ekolist.cz/cz/zpravodajstvi/otevreni-anglicko-environmentalni-skoly-na-sumatre-je-krokem-k-ochrane-ohrozenych-outlonu-a-dalsich-zivocichu) “Conservationists have opened an English-Environmental school in Sumatra. It should contribute to slow loris protection”: <http://ekolist.cz/cz/zpravodajstvi/otevreni-anglicko-environmentalni-skoly-na-sumatre-je-krokem-k-ochrane-ohrozenych-outlonu-a-dalsich-zivocichu>

Article on [jitrocel.ostrava.cz](http://jitrocel.ostrava.cz/?p=371) “Ostrava Zoo’s colouring books are helping save Greater slow lorises”: <http://jitrocel.ostrava.cz/?p=371>

Article of Česká televize “Deadly cute: People kill endangered slow lorises with cuddling” <http://www.ceskatelevize.cz/ct24/veda/2087064-smrtelne-roztomili-lide-ohrozene-outlone-zabiji-mazlenim>

In January, also listeners of the well-known Czech radio Impuls could learn about the program from the talk of the moderator Jan Čada or from his article about “Women of Provodov in the World”: <http://zlin.cz/526546n-provodovjanky-ve-svete.-tri-priklady-hodne-pozornosti>

Article on [ekolist.cz](http://ekolist.cz/cz/zpravodajstvi/zpravy/den-bez-palmoveho-oleje-se-stal-mezinarodnim-diky-ceskym-organizacim) “Palm Oil Free Day has become international. Thanks to Czech organizations” <http://ekolist.cz/cz/zpravodajstvi/zpravy/den-bez-palmoveho-oleje-se-stal-mezinarodnim-diky-ceskym-organizacim>

Activities of The Kukang Rescue Program have been also regularly mentioned in the newsletter of EAZA Prosimian TAG, as the Kukang program is a part of Prosimian TAG’s “*In situ* plan on conservation of Prosimians”. In 2017, the Kukang program was mentioned in a few issues:

- Newsletter No. 6 – Leaflet “Responsible tourism – Let’s behave responsibly” together with the crowdfunding campaign for inhalation anesthesia and the new video: [https://scontent-frt3-2.xx.fbcdn.net/v/t1.0-9/25551976\\_1663365933686638\\_681631778933141418\\_n.jpg?oh=b514b9779f38fa81a6d58e8f77b90661&oe=5AB3DB3C](https://scontent-frt3-2.xx.fbcdn.net/v/t1.0-9/25551976_1663365933686638_681631778933141418_n.jpg?oh=b514b9779f38fa81a6d58e8f77b90661&oe=5AB3DB3C)
- Newsletter No. 5 – End of school year in the English-Environmental school, its equipment and a new virtual 360° tour in the rescue and rehabilitation centre and in the school: [https://scontent-frx5-1.xx.fbcdn.net/v/t1.0-9/20799054\\_1545398972150002\\_8090952309415055842\\_n.jpg?oh=10717c5841d153e2c8fa245028d58e09&oe=5ADC3EEB](https://scontent-frx5-1.xx.fbcdn.net/v/t1.0-9/20799054_1545398972150002_8090952309415055842_n.jpg?oh=10717c5841d153e2c8fa245028d58e09&oe=5ADC3EEB) and [https://scontent-frt3-2.xx.fbcdn.net/v/t1.0-9/20799480\\_1545398968816669\\_588094378802964343\\_n.jpg?oh=b15b542aa77db0e49863b2e149009c9c&oe=5AB0C16B](https://scontent-frt3-2.xx.fbcdn.net/v/t1.0-9/20799480_1545398968816669_588094378802964343_n.jpg?oh=b15b542aa77db0e49863b2e149009c9c&oe=5AB0C16B)
- Newsletter No. 4 – Construction of an environmental library and Slow Loris Colouring Book by the Ostrava Zoo: [https://scontent-frt3-2.xx.fbcdn.net/v/t1.0-9/20265045\\_1522541944435705\\_6141083125029003164\\_n.jpg?oh=7d96eb877c45cf88c8921e4286013e05&oe=5AE6026F](https://scontent-frt3-2.xx.fbcdn.net/v/t1.0-9/20265045_1522541944435705_6141083125029003164_n.jpg?oh=7d96eb877c45cf88c8921e4286013e05&oe=5AE6026F)
- Newsletter No. 3 – Internet campaign “I Am Not Your Toy!” and taking photographs with wild animals: [https://scontent-frt3-2.xx.fbcdn.net/v/t1.0-9/18920243\\_1473586515997915\\_3780791380736559597\\_n.jpg?oh=79417f180d94cc1337d3c8ca5768f52f&oe=5AF32C13](https://scontent-frt3-2.xx.fbcdn.net/v/t1.0-9/18920243_1473586515997915_3780791380736559597_n.jpg?oh=79417f180d94cc1337d3c8ca5768f52f&oe=5AF32C13)

The Kukang Rescue Program has been also introduced to readers of the Ochrana přírody magazine in the attachment of the 5<sup>th</sup> issue, page 10.

## In conclusion

One of the biggest news and bureaucratic challenges of 2017 was establishing a new Indonesian foundation “Yayasan Peduli Kelestarian Satwa Liar” – shortly “PASAL Foundation” (unofficially translated as Wildlife Conservation Foundation). The foundation was established in July 2017 and is registered under number AHU-0010398.AH.01.04. Tahun 2017. Since its beginning, this foundation has been covering all activities of The Kukang Rescue Program in Indonesia. František Příbrský and Lucie Čižmářová are the founders.

In the Czech Republic, 2017 was the first year when Czech activities of the Kukang program were covered by the Czech non-profit organization The Kukang Rescue Program, z.s. registered under ID: 05611717.

Thanks to a new technology, a new virtual 360° tour in the rescue and rehabilitation centre and the environmental school in the Bandar Baru village, North Sumatra province, was created. You can take this tour just by movement of your mouse on this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VFqWlmUkDmg&t=1s>

New video about illegal trade in slow lorises and activities of our rescue centre in Sumatra, dubbed by documentarist, producer and traveller Petr Horký, can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JMU4acx4jr8&t=6s>



**Shot of the new video about illegal trade in slow lorises**



**Shot of the new virtual 360° tour**

In 2017, we also hired a very talented assistant Jenny Natalia Simanjuntak. Jenny can speak English very well and has knowledge of information technologies. Besides the work for our program, Jenny studies law.



**Assistant Jenny**



**International team**

All the mentioned activities could not have been realized without support of our partner zoological gardens Ostrava Zoo, Olomouc Zoo and Liberec Zoo, nor without support of other organizations, such as The Rufford Foundation, Czech Coalition for Biodiversity Conservation (CCBC), Czech Palm Oil Watch, EAZA Prosimian TAG and of many others, summary of which can be viewed on our website. Many thanks to all of them!



All the activities and events could happen thanks to work and willingness of many people. In conclusion, we would like to thank the organizers, volunteers and partners of all the events and lectures, and also to the others who have supported us financially, materially or by donating their time. We must not forget mentioning the help of all the members of the Kukang team and volunteers who have helped us realize many activities both in Indonesia and in the Czech Republic. However, our gratitude belongs to all who have taken their part in combating illegal wildlife trade and in protection of slow lorises.

**Frantisek Pribrsky**

Director of the Yayasan Peduli Kelestarian Satwa Liar Foundation

Leader of The Kukang Rescue Program

Field worker of the Ostrava Zoo

[www.kukang.org](http://www.kukang.org)

